

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Lauderdale County

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## Accomplishments

- Provided free vision screens at the annual GAKAC (Give A Kid A Chance) Event.
- Organized and produced two fundraisers to support the operational expenses of the CPC.
- Organized and produced two fundraisers to support the Graduation Project, which provides assistance for graduating seniors. At this time, the Graduation Project has assisted with graduation fees and graduation attire.
- Lauderdale County Community Development Commission awarded the LCCPC funding to assist with operational expenses.
- Trinity Episcopal Church's St. Francis Project awarded the LCCPC funding to assist with operational expenses.
- Continued to present alcohol and drug awareness programs in area schools.
- Conducted a synthetic drug educational program to professionals and community members with Continuing Education Credits.
- Conducted a violence program to professionals and community members with Continuing Education Credits.
- Conducted a healthy families program to professionals and community members with Continuing Education Credits.
- Conducted an educational program regarding HIV/STD's to professionals and community members

with Continuing Education Credits.

- Conducted seven money management classes to community members and families at various locations throughout the county.
- Organized and participated in a Piggy Bank Pageant using only recycled materials.
- Provided free fingerprinting identification cards for community children, as part of a child abuse prevention and awareness activity.
- Received an award from Keep the Shoals Beautiful, through the local Chamber of Commerce.
- Funding for RAP (Reintegration Accountability Program), which offers adolescent and Parent Project® Inc. classes, was maintained through a grant from the Alabama Department of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention.
- Secured financial funding for HIPPY through the Appalachian Regional Commission for another fiscal year.
- LCCPC members volunteered with the local Reality Check Program. The Reality Check Program allows students to visit real life stations and experience what it is like to pay bills for one month.
- LCCPC members volunteered with the local BEST Robotics Competition. Through BEST, students learn valuable workplace skills.
- LCCPC members attended the Alabama Community Leadership Network Conference.
- LCCPC executive board members attended training on Quickbooks™ Computer Program.
- Participated in a webinar regarding expansion of fundraisers and donors.
- Presented a Shaken Baby Prevention Program in the community.
- Attended VOICES for Alabama Children training.
- LCCPC members increased their knowledge of bullying prevention by attending bullying workshops.
- Scheduled and attended a meeting with the president of KidOne© regarding the possibility of extending their service area to include our county. KidOne© provides transportation for children and expectant mothers to necessary health care services.
- LCCPC became a member of MVP Shoals, a support system and liaison between nonprofit agencies and the community in order to enhance service involvement in the Shoals.
- Participated in the Children's Trust Fund Rally in Montgomery.
- Presented at the National HIPPY Conference.
- Hosted DCA Regional Training.
- LCCPC maintained membership with the Shoals Chamber of Commerce.
- Maintained quarterly CPC meetings and monthly committee meetings.
- Maintained the LCCPC website ([www.lauderdalecountycpc.org](http://www.lauderdalecountycpc.org)).
- Maintained the LCCPC Facebook page.

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## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

LCCPC members identified priority one as children being safe, secure, and productive in all aspects of their life based on decisions they make for themselves, as well as, the decisions others make for them.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent and grandparent support groups</li><li>• Parent Project® Inc. classes and other parenting classes</li><li>• Parent resource fairs</li><li>• Parent-Teacher Organizations</li><li>• Information for students about bullying and cyber-bullying</li><li>• Community Outreach Programs that are specific to the needs of area students</li><li>• Appalachian Region Commission grant, awarded to our local Childcare Education Resources (CER) Program, that addresses nutrition, educating parents regarding health, and healthy habits</li><li>• Early Warning Program followed by parent meetings to offer help to parents</li><li>• Alternative ways to assist children with graduation. For example; Credit Recovery, Rescue, etc.</li><li>• A graduation fund for indigent seniors that assists with fees and gowns</li><li>• Parents are being held legally accountable for truancy</li><li>• Lauderdale Co. JAG (Jobs for Alabama Graduates)</li><li>• Video of community leaders encouraging school attendance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student, parent, school, and community collaboration to provide information that will help children make informed decisions to encourage a healthy lifestyle</li><li>• 'Buy-In' from community members of all ages</li><li>• Earlier intervention</li><li>• Increased awareness for parenting support classes and the negative outcomes of truancy</li><li>• Better ways to disseminate parent information and support to parents in need</li></ul>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Organize community awareness events to promote healthy lifestyles.
2. Find new ways to promote healthy lifestyles.
3. Continued educational programs to community and school systems about healthy relationships, substance abuse, violence, life skills, sexual health, and the importance of education, which will lead to healthy, productive lifestyles.
4. Continue to publicize the importance of healthy habits.
5. Conduct a survey with the students in Lauderdale County to assess the feelings of safety when school resource officers are not present versus when school resource officers are present.

6. Continue to add community partnerships.

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## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

LCCPC members identified priority two as affordable transportation for addressing necessary medical needs.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members from the faith-based community have offered assistance with transportation to hospitals that are out of our area (i.e. Children's Hospitals in Birmingham and Huntsville)</li><li>• 'Road to Recovery' provided by the local American Cancer Society to assist with transportation to treatments</li><li>• North Alabama Council of Local Government (NACOLG)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnership with KidOne</li><li>• Affordable, reliable, public bus system</li><li>• Partnering with local cab companies to assist indigent individuals with getting to and from necessary medical appointments that are out of their normal catchment area</li></ul>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. LCCPC will continue to strength existing relationships with the faith-based community, American Cancer Society, and NACOLG.
2. Funding sources will be explored, specifically with civitan clubs and local businesses, to cover the costs of Lauderdale County being served by KidOne.
3. Meeting with members of KidOne to see about the expansion of their coverage area to include Lauderdale County. Completed

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## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

LCCPC members identified priority three as affordable childcare.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• YMCA childcare</li><li>• DHR subsidizes for childcare</li><li>• Survey conducted with LCCPC and UNA regarding summer childcare needs</li><li>• Licensed day care facilities</li><li>• Handy Head Start</li><li>• Pre-K Programs</li><li>• Salvation Army's Summer Camp Program for elementary age children</li><li>• Summer Feeding Programs: First United Methodist Church's Shephard's Table, Sidney's Safe Foundation, soup kitchen, Circle's Project, and backpacks of food from YMCA</li><li>• School Resource Officer Summer Day Camp for middle school students</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional childcare subsidizes</li><li>• Additional childcare scholarships</li><li>• Childcare provided by employers</li></ul>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Members will continue to look for partnerships with faith-based organizations.
2. Discuss with principals and superintendents the need to have summer community programs through the schools, which would meet the need for childcare and nutrition. Completed
3. Continue to publicize the need for affordable childcare.
4. Approach local legislators about sponsoring a bill to provide a tax break for businesses that provide childcare for their employees.